

Message Text

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TAGS: PDIP, GR, US

SUBJECT: PRESS STORY RE AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE SCHAUFLE

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF PAGE 1 ARTICLE IN JULY 23 WASHINGTON POST HEADED "PHRASE BREWS GREEK TEMPEST." BEGI TEXT.

THE APPOINTMENT OF WILLIAM E. SCHAUFLE AS AMBASSADOR TO GREECE APPARENTLY HAS BEEN DELAYED BECAUSE OF A STORMY REACTION IN ATHENS TO AN OBSCURE PHRASE USED BY HIM AT HIS SENATE CONFIRMATION HEARINGS.

TO AMERICANS UNFAMILIAR WITH THE CENTURIES OF ANIMOSITY BETWEEN GREECE AND TURKEY, THE INCIDENT MIGHT SEEM TO BE A TEMPEST IN AN AEGEAN TEAPOT. BUT ATHENS NEWSPAPERS AND POLITICIANS HAVE FANNED IT INTO A MAJOR CONTROVERSEY BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

INFORMED SOURCES SAID IT APPEARED THAT SCHAUFLE'S UNCLASSIFIED

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ASSIGNMENT TO GREECE NOW WOULD BE DELAYED AT LEAST UNTIL SECRETARY OF STATE CYRUS R. VANCE MEETS THE GREEK FOREIGN MINISTER AT THE UNITED NATIONS IN SEPTEMBER. THE SOURCES SAID IT WAS CONCEIVABLE THE APPOINTMENT WOULD BE CANCELED.

THE CONTROVERSY CENTERED ON SCHAUFLE'S TESTIMONY TO THE

SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE ON JULY 12. HE SAID:

"THE AEGEAN, ESSENTIALLY, IS A BILATERAL DISPUTE BETWEEN GREECE AND TURKEY, WHICH IN PART IS DUE TO THE UNUSUAL, I MUST ADMIT, ARRANGEMENTS THAT HAVE BEEN MADE ABOUT GEOGRAPHY IN THE PAST IN WHICH YOU HAVE GREECE OWNING TERRITORY VERY CLOSE TO THE TURKISH COAST AS A RESULT OF PAST INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS."

THE WORDS "UNUSUAL ARRANGEMENTS," RELAYED TO ATHENS BY THE NEW YORK CORRESPONDENT OF THE ATHENS DAILY TO VIMA, CAUSED SHOCK AND CONSTERNATION. SOME GREEKS TOOK THE TESTIMONY THAT HAD BEEN PULLED OUT OF CONTEXT AS A SIGNAL THAT THE UNITED STATES DISAPPROVED OF TREATY ARRANGEMENTS WHICH PLACED ISLANDS SUCH AS LESBOS AND CHIOS UNDER GREEK CONTRL.

ANDREAS PAPANDREOU, CHAIRMAN OF THE GREEK SOCIALIST PARTY, THUNDERED THAT IT WAS NOW CLEAR THAT "TURKISH EXPANSIONISM IS NOT ONLY INSTIGATED BUT DIRECTLY GUIDED BY THE UNITED STATES." SCHAUFLE WOULD BE UNACCEPTABLE TO ANY GREEK, HE SAID.

THE UNITED DEMOCRATIC LEFT PARTY SAID IT WAS CLEAR SCHAUFLE, 53, A FORMER ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR AFRICAN AFFAIRS, WAS "AN OPEN ADVOCATE OF TURKISH VIEWS."

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TO VIMA, OUTRAGED BY THE "ASTOUNDING STATEMENT," SAID SCHAUFLE MUST BE AN "AGENT OF CONCEPTS WHICH ENCOURAGE TURKISH EXPANSIONISM."

THE REACTION CREATED POLITICAL DIFFICULTIES FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF PRIME MINISTER CONSTANTIN KARAMANLIS, WHO HAS BEEN FORCED TO DEAL WITH STRONG ANTI-AMERICAN SENTIMENT WHILE ATTEMPTING TO MAINTAIN GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES.

SUBSEQUENTLY, THE STATE DEPARTMENT RELEASED AN EDITED VERSION OF THE SCHAUFLE TRANSCRIPT WHICH APPEARED TO MAKE THE WORDING MORE DIPLOMATIC. IT SAID"

"THE PROBLEM(OF THE AEGEAN) IS DUE IN PART TO AN UNUSUAL ARRANGEMENT OF GEOGRAPHY. GREECE OWNS TERRITORY VERY CLOSE TO THE TURKISH COAST. THIS OWNERSHIP IS BASED ON LONG-STANDING INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS."

JACK KUBISCH, WHO RETURNED TUESDAY NIGHT AFTER A TWO-YEAR TOUR AS AMBASSADOR IN ATHENS, CONFERRED WITH ASSISTANT

SECRETARY OF STATE GEORGE S. VEST ON THE GREEK VIEW
OF THE SCHAUFLE NOMINATION.

GREEK-TURKISH RELATIONS HAVE BEEN BITTER SINCE TURKEY
INVADED CYPRUS IN 1974 TO OVERTURN A COUP BY GREEK NATION-
ALIST FORCES ON THE BINATIONAL ISLAND NATION.

ONE U.S. OFFICIAL WAS CRITICAL OF THE GREEK INTERPRETATIONS
OF SCHAUFLE'S STATEMENTS, SAYING "HE WAS ONLY REPEATING
THE FACTS AS THEY ARE," THE ASSOCIATED PRESS REPORTED.

END TEXT. VANCE

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